

“If [former spouse] dies before [employee], the United States Office of Personnel Management is directed to pay [former spouse]’s share of [employee]’s civil service retirement benefits to surviving children of the marriage including any adopted children, in equal shares. Upon the deaths of any child, that child’s share will be distributed among the other surviving children.”

The language may be modified to terminate the payments to the children when they reach a stated age. A court order that includes such a provision for termination must include sufficient information (such as the children’s dates of birth) to permit OPM to determine when the children’s interest terminate. OPM will not consider evidence outside the court order (and normal OPM files) to establish the children’s dates of birth.

**¶ 503 Former spouse share paid to the court.**

Using the following paragraph will provide for payment of the former spouse’s share of an employee annuity to the court after the death of the former spouse. This would allow a court officer to administer the funds. “If [former spouse] dies before [employee], the United States Office of Personnel Management is directed to pay [former spouse]’s share of [employee]’s civil service retirement benefits to this court at the following address: “[Insert address where checks should be sent. The address may be up to six lines and should include sufficient information for court officials to credit the correct account.]”

**Subpart G—Procedures for Processing Court Orders Awarding Former Spouse Survivor Annuities**

**REGULATORY STRUCTURE**

**§ 838.701 Purpose and scope.**

(a) This subpart regulates the procedures that the Office of Personnel Management will follow upon the receipt of claims arising out of State court orders awarding former spouse survivor annuities under CSRS or FERS (including the FERS basic employee death benefit as defined in § 843.102 of this chapter). OPM must comply with qualifying court orders, decrees, or court-approved property settlements in connection with divorces, annulments of marriages, or legal separations of employees or retirees that award former spouse survivor annuities.

(b) This subpart prescribes—

(1) The commencing and terminating dates of former spouse survivor annuities based on court orders acceptable for processing; and

(2) The procedures that a former spouse must follow when applying for a former spouse survivor annuity based on a court order under section 8341(h) or section 8445 of title 5, United States Code.

(c)(1) Subpart H of this part contains the rules that a court order must satisfy to be a court order acceptable for processing to award a former spouse survivor annuity.

(2) Subpart I of this part contains definitions that OPM uses to determine the effect of a court order in connection with a former spouse survivor annuity.

[57 FR 33574, July 29, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 43493, Aug. 17, 1993]

**LIMITATIONS ON SURVIVOR ANNUITIES**

**§ 838.711 Maximum former spouse survivor annuity.**

(a) Under CSRS, payments under a court order may not exceed the amount provided in § 831.641 of this chapter.

(b) Under FERS, payments under a court order may not exceed amount provided in § 842.613 of this chapter plus the basic employee death benefit as defined in § 843.102 of this chapter.

[57 FR 33574, July 29, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 52882, Oct. 13, 1993]

**APPLICATION AND PROCESSING PROCEDURES**

**§ 838.721 Application requirements.**

(a)(1) A former spouse (personally or through a representative) must apply in writing to be eligible for a former spouse survivor annuity based on a court order acceptable for processing. No special form is required to give OPM notice of the court order.

(2) OPM may require an additional application after the death of the employee, separated employee, or retiree. This additional application will be on a form prescribed by OPM.

(b)(1) The application letter under paragraph (a)(1) of this section must be accompanied by—

(i) A certified copy of the court order;